



DOCUMENTING LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO EARTH'S BIODIVERSITY HERITAGE: THE GLOBAL REGISTRY

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ABSTRACT

Despite global environmental policies calling for expanded representative, well-connected and effective protected areas, a significant proportion of areas governed and managed by local communities and indigenous peoples is largely under-documented by formal mechanisms and therefore not counted. International processes to inventory protected areas have been underway for decades, but only recently have diverse governance types been included in global databases. We outline the history and context of the development of the Global Registry of indigenous peoples' and community conserved territories and areas, abbreviated as ICCAs. This registry was developed through a long-term consultation process and an international partnership. The Registry adheres to principles of Free, Prior Informed Consent and uses the same technical infrastructure and data standard as the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). We describe the local benefits of global registration for those who have participated, such as reduced conflict around mining prospects and increased revenue from community-based tourism. We also highlight globally relevant findings from the Registry: over 70 per cent of registered ICCAs have biodiversity conservation as a core objective, and registered ICCAs represent all IUCN management categories. We discuss the increasing alignment of the ICCA Registry with the WDPA, and describe the importance of both databases for documenting and analysing ICCAs. Lastly, we argue that careful documentation of these areas can enhance their value for effective biodiversity protection, and for the achievement of global conservation and development targets.

Key words: Protected areas, conserved areas, governance diversity, community conservation, indigenous peoples, biocultural protection, global targets, ICCAs, World Database on Protected Areas

INTRODUCTION

The role of indigenous peoples and local communities to provide leadership in biodiversity conservation has been largely overlooked, and protected area jurisdiction has mostly been documented as managed by governments (Bertzky et al., 2012). As formal protected areas are unlikely to meet all elements of global conservation targets set for the year 2020, a need is arising to look to "alternative approaches" including community-led conservation measures (Butchart et al., 2015).

The territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities (collectively referred to as ICCAs) are "natural and modified ecosystems, including significant biodiversity, ecological services and cultural

values, voluntarily conserved by indigenous peoples and local and mobile communities through customary laws or other effective means" (Borrini-Feyerabend et al., 2004b). Examples of the values, motivations and diversity of ICCAs are documented in various publications (see Borrini-Feyerabend et al., 2010; Kothari et al., 2012; Smyth, 2015). Despite increasing attention, the number, spatial extent, distribution and biodiversity impact of ICCAs are not well understood on a scale that matches current knowledge of protected areas under the governance and management of state authorities. In response to the need for international documentation of ICCAs, a global registry was developed in 2008 to record in one place the spatial, biodiversity and cultural values of community-led conservation.



Young and old Mansaka converge at the blank 3-dimensional map of their ancestral domain to translate crude sketches into understandable land use information that will be used for purposes including conservation planning © Glaiza Tabanao

The Global ICCA Registry (referred to as the “Registry”) is an online information platform¹, which allows for registration of ICCA sites. It was created to help document, recognize and protect the vital contributions that indigenous peoples and local communities have made to conservation in the past and present. The Registry consists of a secure, offline database containing core descriptive data of ICCAs collected via a questionnaire; the data and platform used follow the same standards as the World Database on Protected Areas². The Registry website also features a number of in-depth case studies that provide comprehensive details about a site’s history, development and bio-cultural features. The Registry facilitates the documentation of ICCAs regardless of whether the site is formally recognized as a protected area or meets the IUCN definition (see Dudley, 2008). Because the Registry adopts a peer-review and quality control process in line with other global conservation databases, it offers an unprecedented opportunity to consolidate knowledge on ICCAs.

Over 170 ICCAs from nearly 50 countries have been registered since 2008. Through the Registry, communities themselves, or organizations working with them (with the free, prior, and informed consent of the

concerned communities), provide data, case studies, maps, photos and stories. The optional process of providing a case study goes beyond mapping to allow communities to share experiences, photographs and relevant documents online. Contributions to the Registry are voluntary, a feature that supports self-determination principles. It is currently managed by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre with support from the member-based ICCA Consortium³.

The decision to establish the Registry rested on two key objectives: (1) the need for multi-level recognition of ICCAs that follows Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) principles as included in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) (UNGA, 2007) and (2) adopting a rigour of documentation that is robust, accessible and global, and which highlights approaches to conservation of biological and cultural diversity other than government-designated protected areas. The background of its development is described further in this paper. Lastly, to manage a global documentation process that supports and recognizes the conservation value and autonomy of ICCAs, it is important to use some degree of standardised language. For the purposes of this paper, we refer to “ICCAs” as an all-inclusive term which fits many diverse local realities.

It is for the custodians of ICCAs — in all cases — to decide whether the term speaks to them and can be used for their needs and circumstances.

INTERNATIONAL POLICIES RECOGNIZING DIVERSITY

Advances made in international policies over the last two decades have opened the door for recognition of community-led conservation practices. The 2003 World Parks Congress created a pivotal global opportunity to recognize a diversity of conservation approaches in the context of protected areas (Phillips, 2003; Borrini-Feyerabend et al., 2004b; Roe, 2008). Prior to that, examples of innovation at national and local levels played a significant role for these developments; for example, the first co-governed Aboriginal-owned national park, Garig Gunak Barlu National Park, was established in Australia in 1981 (Smyth, 2001), offering lessons for how such a process can be supported more broadly. While the 1990s was the decade for indigenous peoples' and community-based conservation issues to receive widespread attention, it was the first decade of the new millennium that spawned opportunities for years of local-level community practice and research to inform international policy. The issues of co-management, or shared power (Borrini-Feyerabend et al., 2004a), emerged alongside the significance of governance (Graham et al., 2003) and the need for increased recognition of governance diversity, vitality and quality (Borrini-Feyerabend & Hill, 2015). Furthermore, the 2007 UNDRIP, a landmark universal pronouncement, generated standards to safeguard and protect indigenous communities (UNGA, 2007; Charters, 2006). Another key international agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) generated a Strategic Plan with language throughout its Programmes of Work dedicated to recognition and support of indigenous peoples and local communities (CBD, 2010). More recently, the 2014 World Parks Congress produced the Promise of Sydney (IUCN, 2014), a vision statement that uses the phrase "protected and conserved areas" to encompass an expanding recognition of the diversity of governance mechanisms that contribute to biodiversity conservation.

As national and global policies create space for acknowledging community governance and management of protected and conserved areas, a deeper understanding of what is required to support the mechanisms that underpin effective conservation is critical for biodiversity conservation and its interrelated social components. Furthermore, the global environmental protection effort is potentially missing out on the conservation benefits that can be achieved by

supporting the re-emergence of indigenous authority over their traditional estates; for example, Indigenous Protected Areas in Australia provide a model for "country-based" collaborative planning and co-governance (Smyth, 2015). Social issues in conservation have evolved (Kareiva, 2014) and the need for acknowledgement of a diversity of governance types in protected areas is gaining important attention (see Dudley, 2008; Borrini-Feyerabend et al., 2013).

CHALLENGES IN DOCUMENTING ICCAS

The Registry serves as a single and comprehensive database with standardized information about ICCAs. It was born out of increasing awareness of the challenges associated with documenting ICCAs. In addition to country-specific historical and political issues, these reasons include for example: (1) inadequate documentation, (2) insufficient visibility of already existing documentation usually available only as grey literature, (3) low levels of awareness and recognition by national governments, (4) complexities and overlaps in tenure systems, and (5) a lack of demarcated boundaries or recognition of traditional/customary boundaries. There is also a significant mismatch between the area where communities hold customary rights and the much smaller area recognized by law (RRI, 2015). Further, scientific publications mapping and properly attributing efforts to communities are patchy (Brook & McLachlan, 2008), especially in a format accessible to decision-makers.

Contemporary documentation practices require innovative ways to capture diversity of knowledge types and guard against risks at the local level. For example, many ICCAs are remotely located and have no financial or technical support to carry out or sustainably manage documentation. A lack of electricity often prevents electronic records from being kept, and, in humid environments, the degradation of paper products can hamper efforts to keep written records. In other cases, some cultures use oral history or other mechanisms to pass knowledge through generations; for example, the Maori of New Zealand use stories, songs, carvings and weavings as evidence of knowledge alongside written documents (Wareham, 2001). In situations where intergenerational transfer of local and/or traditional knowledge is interrupted, the knowledge risks being lost if not documented in some form. This documentation needs to be protected through legal and other effective means against theft, misappropriation and misuse. In some situations, greater visibility of ICCAs — including their associated knowledge systems, sacred spaces and communities' way of being — could increase threats from authoritarian governments or other actors. There has

Table 1. Key questions that guided the design and process of the global ICCA Registry (from Corrigan and Granziera, 2010).

Topic area	Key questions
Core features	Where are ICCAs located? How many are there? How large an area do they cover?
Community characteristics	What are the main benefits and opportunities available to ICCAs that find value in a registry process and expected outputs? What are the key issues that ICCAs are encountering?
Socio-economic aspects	What is the value of ICCAs in social, cultural and economic terms? How are the impacts on livelihoods best assessed? What indicators are most appropriate and useful?
Ecosystem/nature conservation	What is the value and contribution of ICCAs with respect to biodiversity significance, ecological processes and connectivity?
Governance/Management	How do the governance and management of an ICCA relate to its conservation value?
Policy and legal aspects	How and to what extent do national governments and other entities recognize ICCAs?

been an associated concern that recognition of ICCAs by national governments could simply be a way to meet states' international commitments; if not done appropriately, such recognition could in fact lead to the undermining or appropriation of ICCAs.

One of the major objectives of documentation is to help gain appropriate recognition at all levels. Although the term "ICCA" is largely used at the global level for the sake of convenience and consistency, there is a diversity of local designations that exist, including vernacular place names in local languages; for example, "kaya" in Kenya, "adat land" in Indonesia, and "community owned conservation area" in Guyana (see Corrigan and Hay-Edie, 2013 for examples). The terminology that has been adopted at the international level has changed over time (Smyth, 2015), and will likely continue to evolve as global policies increasingly recognize and support diversity of governance.

Despite the above concerns, it has been generally agreed that increased efforts to research and document ICCAs, especially where they may be directly threatened by land use changes, extractive industry, or misguided conservation policies, can lead to greater support and recognition (Kothari et al., 2012). Two critical considerations that the Registry adheres to are that:

1. any such documentation is produced by the communities or peoples who own or manage the area or, at least, with their full and prior knowledge, input and consent; and
2. information considered sensitive by the communities is either not documented or provided with adequate protection.

HISTORY OF THE ICCA REGISTRY DEVELOPMENT

Given the challenges of documenting ICCAs and the important value of this information, a partnership was formed in 2008 to establish and jointly govern a global registry of ICCAs. Partners included the ICCA Consortium (whose membership encompasses indigenous peoples' and local community organizations, their networks and federations, and others); the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) GEF Small Grants Programme; and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The idea for a registry process emerged within the ICCA Consortium, and evolved through discussions with its members and partners as one of the mechanisms to create possibilities for recognition of ICCAs in international policies. This involved in-depth discussions exploring mechanisms by which the documentation would happen in a fair, just and rigorous manner, following FPIC requirements. In addition, this process led the Registry to include important characteristics of ICCAs, such as cultural and conservation benefits. UNEP-WCMC undertook responsibility for building and hosting the Registry, using decades of experience in managing decision-making knowledge systems for science and policy, including the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), the most comprehensive global database of marine and terrestrial protected areas.

The design of the Global ICCA Registry

The Registry was designed with a broad audience in mind to increase available information about ICCAs, their diverse biological, ecological and cultural values, and their geographical extent (Corrigan & Granziera,



Mamanwa-Manobo elders delineate the boundaries of their ICCA on the 3-dimensional map using strings and nails
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2010). The partnership governing the Registry worked together through in-person and other mechanisms over the course of several months to identify critical questions that the Registry could address (Table 1). The Registry's design was informed by the robust platform of the WDPA so it comprises spatial data (i.e. boundaries and points) with associated attribute (or descriptive) data. While it was important that the Registry adhere to the same quality and data standards as the WDPA, it was designed to contain additional, in-depth information, in particular on ICCA governance and community characteristics. Thus, the Registry includes the same core data fields as the WDPA, with up to 30 optional data fields that help answer these questions.

Taking account of sensitive issues for ICCAs

From the early stages of the Registry's development, partners and community advisors were aware of the inherent sensitivities of managing spatial and other types of data on ICCAs. For example, where sacred sites or highly endangered/valuable resources are managed, increased attention may not be wanted. At the same time, it was clearly noted that many communities were and continue to be under immediate and long-term threat

from a number of forces, such as conflicts over land, water and natural resource tenure and control (see Watts, 2016, for example). Sensitive situations regarding authority and livelihoods are also created in places where ICCAs and protected areas overlap, an occurrence common in various countries (Stevens et al., 2016). In some cases, increased visibility and public awareness could be a tool to mitigate these threats. As a result, the Registry was designed to include a consent process allowing contributors to decide if their information is kept secure or made available to the public.

Since its inception, the Registry case studies have been fully accessible on the website; conversely, the database has been offline. This helped enable lessons about how to best gather and store potentially sensitive information. It is intended that some element of the Registry database will be publicly available in the future, subject to the levels of data dissemination permitted by the communities that provided their information. Some data will remain permanently offline, in accordance with the providers' expressed wishes. All other core data not currently found on the website would be searchable by public users and/or linked to the WDPA.

Table 2. Examples of ICCAs in the Registry and their custodians' motivations for, and benefits received from, participation. Details on other potential benefits and considerations can be found at www.iccaregistry.org.

ICCA name	Country	Year reported to Registry	Motivation/Benefits of Registry
San Crisanto, Unidad de Manejo Ambiental (UMA)	Mexico	2009	Led to increased support of ICCAs through being awarded the Equator Prize after registration; raised profile on global Registry website which enhanced sustainable ecotourism to benefit the community; provided platform to share experience and support with other communities
The Portulin Talaandig and Balmar Menuvu communities, Pangantucan, Bukidnon	Philippines	2012	Both communities were prioritized for livelihood support (for sustainable coffee-farming and furniture making) because they are included in the ICCA Registry
Mamanwa-Manobo community in Agusan del Norte	Philippines	2012	International recognition raises awareness of those who might be pursuing exploitative activities; small-scale mining activity managers voluntarily moved their operations further from the boundaries of the ICCA
Bolongfenyo Reserve	The Gambia	2012	Documentation at global level complements national recognition of the ICCA in the protected area network
Dongwa Village Protection Forest	China	2014	Potential increase in local ecotourism through use of signage and registered status
Daweishan ICCA	China	2014	Enhanced the relationship and collaboration between three communities by registering collectively as an ICCA.

USE OF THE GLOBAL ICCA REGISTRY AT MULTIPLE SCALES

The Registry has been used in a range of processes at various scales. Now that ICCAs are increasingly being recognized at multiple levels, there is enhanced opportunity to expand participation in and use of the Registry, and added value in doing so.

The Registry at local scale

Given the structure of the Registry, its purpose and its process-oriented character, it largely operates at the level of individual areas or sites that are managed and governed by local communities and indigenous peoples. At the local scale, the Registry offers value to communities for a variety of reasons, including as an opportunity to discuss raising awareness of ICCAs at the global level. For example, members of the vhaVenda peoples in northern South Africa have used the Registry process to facilitate multiple discussions about the values and risks of global registration. Informed by this dialogue, they subsequently submitted a case study to initiate their registration process⁴. This was a community-driven effort supported by local NGO staff.

Another example of value felt on the ground can be drawn from the Mamanwa-Manobo community in the Philippines. Their ICCA has great spiritual significance to the community as the birthplace of their ancestors, while also providing water, food, medicines and shelter. The community describes conservation of their forests as synonymous with protection of their cultural identity. Upon registering with the global Registry, the Mamanwa-Manobo identified extractive activities as a key threat to their ICCA. Their registration served to raise awareness among the broader local community, resulting in the voluntary movement of small-scale miners to locations further from the ICCA's borders. Further examples of benefits experienced by ICCA custodians are described in table 2.

ICCAs in the Philippines: In-country partners play an important role in the on-the-ground registration process alongside and working with the ICCA Consortium. For example, since the Registry's inception, members of the national Filipino NGO Philippine Association for Intercultural Development (PAFID) have been providing invaluable support to indigenous peoples' communities

across the Philippines to map and document the cultural and biodiversity values of areas within Ancestral Domains. To date, PAFID has translated the Registry questionnaire into local languages and has contributed in-depth case studies to the Registry website.

The organization has also helped gather insights from local communities in the Philippines to explain the benefits realized from international documentation and support through the Registry (Table 2). Benefits were perceived not only in being part of the Registry but also in the entire process of registering – by generating internal discussions, debates and awareness while seeking consent, documenting and actual registration. Additionally, the communities in the Philippines are particularly hopeful about the technical and financial support for conservation activities and socio-economic development that their registration could attract. They aspire that the ICCA Registry could be a platform that encourages this kind of support to reach communities. The Registry so far has been used by many as a way to strengthen their efforts to resist unwanted extractive activities and development initiatives in their ICCAs.

The value of Registry information at national scale

While the Registry and other platforms hold an abundance of site-level case studies, there is growing evidence demonstrating the spatial value of conservation by indigenous peoples and local communities at national and regional levels. ICCAs can create linkages between government-managed protected areas, contributing to connectivity, and also serve as important ecological spaces in their own right. For example, thirty-five per cent of the Amazon biome, extending through eight countries, is contained within 3,000 indigenous peoples' territories and is thus under their governance (Maretti et al., 2014). Indigenous territories also provide important

corridors between critical habitat and core areas of carbon stocks (Jantz et al., 2014). Community managed forests contribute species richness and distinctiveness that complements protected areas and state managed forests, such as in the lowlands of Nepal (Dahal et al., 2014). The ICCA Registry increasingly relies on, and encourages the development of, national-level networks of ICCAs. By building from the ground up, these networks have the potential to increase understanding of the value of ICCAs within national contexts.

Most countries currently do not include ICCAs within their national reports or protected area datasets. The omission of ICCAs from countries' national datasets and conservation strategies means that opportunities to recognize, and appropriately support, community-level conservation may be missed. The documentation of ICCAs in UNEP-WCMC's databases, e.g. the Registry or the WDPA, is an opportunity for governments to take stock of the contributions made by communities and indigenous peoples to the coverage, connectivity, representativeness and equity of their protected area systems. The Philippines is already active with regard to ICCAs at national scale. For example, representatives have signed a Manila Declaration in 2012, which includes the planned development of a national registry of ICCAs that aligns with and was informed by the global Registry (Estifania et al., 2012). By recognizing these areas, countries may be better able to honour their international commitments, and also meet internally set national targets for biodiversity conservation.

The Registry at global scale

The value of information from the Registry can be significant when synthesized at the global scale. Table 3 shows the percentage of 167 ICCAs in the Registry that self-reported the main objectives for their site (more

Table 3. Main objectives of 167 globally registered ICCAs

Main Objective for ICCA	Number of ICCAs including as a main objective	% of ICCAs including as a main objective
Biodiversity/species conservation	118	71%
Maintaining and enhancing natural resources	92	55%
Supporting traditional livelihoods	83	50%
Cultural/traditional preservation	66	40%
Spiritual/sacred sites protection	35	21%
Territorial security (control of access to land and resources)	31	19%
Increasing rights for self-rule and empowerment	23	14%
Land ownership security	22	13%

Table 4. Reported IUCN management categories for 91 globally registered ICCAs.

IUCN Management Category	Number of ICCAs	% of ICCAs
Ia	2	2%
Ib	4	4%
II	10	11%
III	7	8%
IV	21	23%
V	5	5%
VI	42	46%

than one objective can be selected as long as it's a central objective). The highest ranking main objective is biodiversity conservation, a finding which coincides with the characteristics of ICCAs (see Borrini-Feyerabend et al., 2010) and which reflects the importance of these areas for contributing to local values and global targets simultaneously.

Table 4 shows the primary IUCN management category associated with 91 ICCAs in the Registry that reported this trait. While almost half of ICCAs fall within category VI (Protected Area with Sustainable Use), nearly a quarter are in Category IV (Habitat and Species Management Area) and around ten percent each in Categories II (National Park) and III (Natural Monument), among others. These findings demonstrate that, while ICCAs may share a broad governance type, the management approaches through which they achieve conservation are diverse. IUCN guidance maintains that management categories and governance types are independent of each other, and that any combination of the two is possible (Dudley, 2008). These findings provide evidence that this assertion is true in practice as well as theory for ICCAs, and reinforce the importance of distinguishing between governance and management.

Following the development of the Registry, a number of decisions in global policies and processes recognized and supported its use, demonstrating its potential value for contributions at the international level and measures of policy implementation. For example, since 2010, the Registry has been mentioned in the text of CBD CoP decisions three times (Box 1), with specific relevance to the Aichi Targets. Figure 1 shows the increasing proportion of CBD CoP decisions that mention local communities and/or indigenous peoples with respect to biodiversity management; this signifies the ongoing importance attributed to recognizing these areas at the global level.

Further decisions also committed to expanding coverage of biodiversity by protected areas and “other effective area-based conservation measures” (OECMs; see Jonas et al., 2014). While there is no current definition of OECM, an IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Task Force was established in 2015 to develop guidance. This may be significant for ICCAs that do not meet the IUCN definition of a protected area or do not wish to be recognized within a national protected area system. Depending on the guidance provided by the task force, the term “OECM” could be applied to ICCAs that are not designated as protected areas but do achieve conservation. This would ensure that these sites are counted alongside protected areas as part of the global conservation estate.

BOX 1. CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (CBD COP) DECISIONS AND THE GLOBAL ICCA REGISTRY

COP 10 Decision X/31, Invites Parties to:

(c) Consider voluntary in-depth reporting using standardized indexes and taxonomies including the proposed **global registry of indigenous and community conserved areas**, where applicable [emphasis added].

COP 11 Decision XI/24, Invites Parties to:

(e) Strengthen recognition of and support for community-based approaches to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in situ, including indigenous and local community conserved areas, other areas within IUCN governance types and initiatives led by indigenous and local communities that fulfil the objectives of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and support the voluntary use of the **Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas Registry** managed by the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre [emphasis added].

COP 11 Decision XI/24

Requests the Executive Secretary, in partnership with relevant organizations, subject to the availability of funding, to continue supporting implementation of national action plans for the programme of work and progress towards achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and other related targets at the national, subregional and regional levels. These activities include...making available tools and technical guidance on those areas where progress is lacking, such as mainstreaming protected areas and defining area-based conservation measures; fostering relevant capacity-building for indigenous and local communities; and supporting the further development of local registries of indigenous and community conserved areas and the **Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas Registry** maintained by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre [emphasis added].

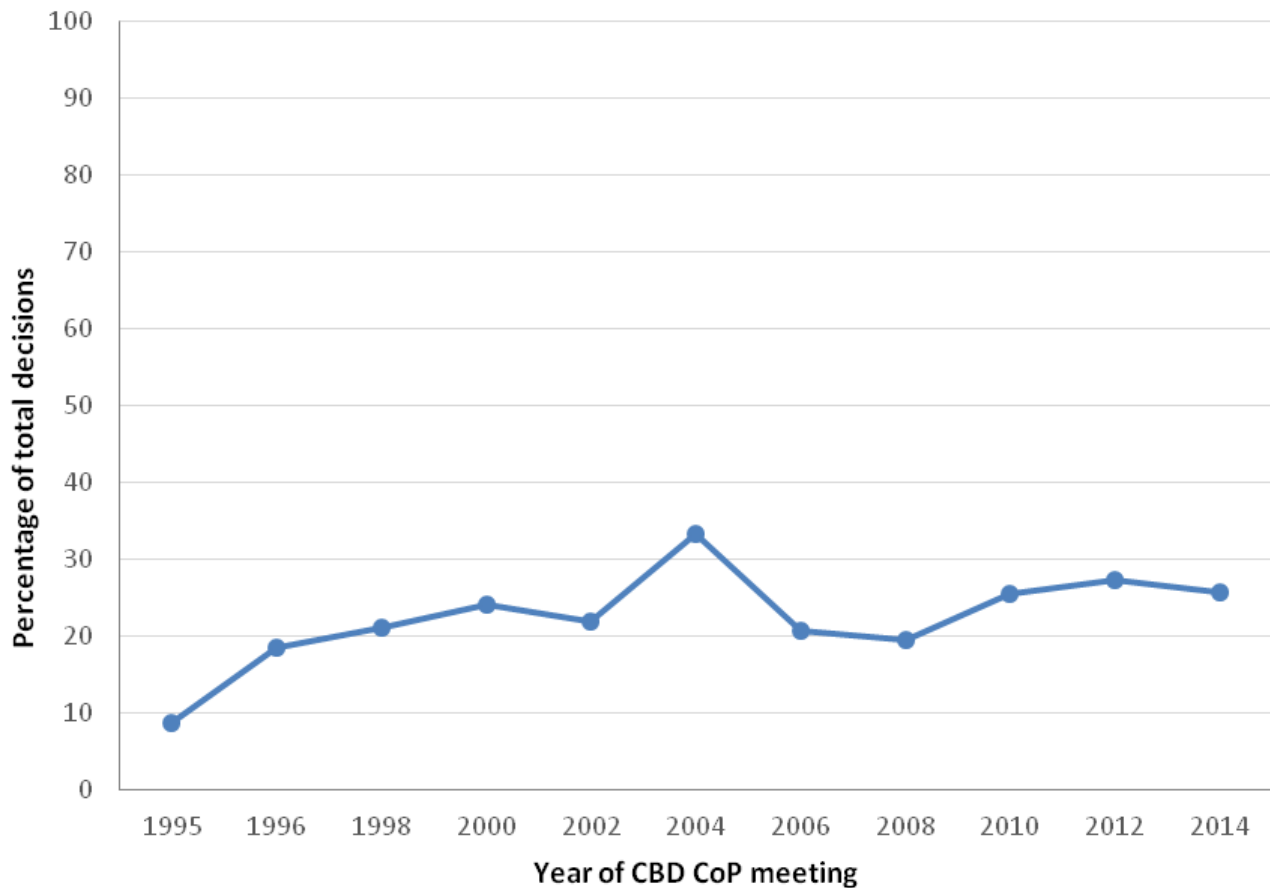


Figure 1. Growth over time in proportion of total CBD COP decisions mentioning local communities and indigenous peoples with respect to biodiversity management.

LINKING THE GLOBAL ICCA REGISTRY WITH THE WDPA

The key difference between the Registry and the WDPA regards the scale at which they function. The largely site-specific Registry is in contrast to the WDPA that traditionally has compiled national datasets into a global database. The Registry holds a wealth of information on specific ICCAs, but its growth has been slow in order to accommodate complex processes such as the ongoing mechanism of acquiring consent. While site-specific insights can be drawn from the Registry's data, it has yet to answer broad questions at the global level about the collective role of ICCAs because it does not yet have complete information about ICCAs for any one nation. For this reason, the Registry is being increasingly aligned with the WDPA while maintaining the robust principles on which the Registry was built. This alignment means that the Registry can continue to store in-depth information, while the national-level focus of data compilation by the WDPA simultaneously helps to answer questions around coverage, connectivity and ecosystem-representativeness of ICCAs. So far, only a few country datasets in the WDPA, such as Brazil and Namibia, have complete inclusion of ICCAs.

The WDPA has historically underestimated the extent of ICCAs, due in large part to a lack of recognition and/or reporting by governments, the WDPA's principal data-providers. The WDPA includes protected areas under all IUCN governance types, such as protected areas governed by indigenous peoples and local communities, and is used to measure progress towards international conservation targets, especially Aichi Target 11⁵. However, the predominance of government-reported data means that ICCAs are only reported by those countries with strong legislative and policy support for recognizing ICCAs as protected areas. This uneven reporting has meant that measuring progress towards the quantitative and qualitative aspects of Target 11 is limited. Furthermore, academic analyses using the WDPA cannot take full account of ICCAs, and conservation and other land-use planning initiatives may lack accurate data on existing conservation land-uses. While inclusion of diverse protected area governance types, including privately protected areas, is still lagging in the WDPA, progress is being made (UNEP-WCMC & IUCN, 2016). The ICCA Registry was created initially to complement the WDPA and help fill this gap. UNEP-WCMC is working in partnership with the ICCA

Global ICCA Registry	WDPA
Indigenous peoples' and community governed sites Compiled at site-scale, but building global picture	All protected area governance types Functions as a repository for national datasets collated to global scale
Detailed information c. 100s sites	Limited information c. 220,000 sites
Website has in-depth case studies and supporting information	Website has coverage maps and statistics
Features in common	
Data standard and review processes	
Both managed by UNEP-WCMC	
ICCA sites can be in either one or both	

Figure 2. Complementarities of the ICCA Registry and the World Database on Protected Areas.

Table 5. Comparison of current ICCA data held in the Registry and the WDPA.

	ICCA Registry	WDPA
Number of ICCAs in database	174	1,477
Number of countries with ICCAs	48	30
Percentage of total data holdings	NA (100%)	0.67%

Consortium, relevant national agencies, UNDP and IUCN to improve the representation of ICCAs in the WDPA, and to align data submission in the WDPA and Registry. The data submission process in the WDPA now allows for inclusion of ICCAs that may not be part of official nationally reported protected area systems. A user manual has been published (UNEP-WCMC, 2016) to facilitate provision of data by ICCA custodians and those working with them. In addition, a simplified process for providing data to both the WDPA and Registry has been introduced. The decision as to whether the site is submitted to the Registry, the WDPA, or both, is made by the data provider. This decision is likely to be informed by the level of sensitivity or threat that the ICCA may be facing. Figure 2 shows the essential differences between the complementary databases.

The Registry continues to be a repository for in-depth information on ICCAs, regardless of whether they are or are not included in the WDPA, such as those that do not meet the IUCN definition of a protected area or whose custodians do not wish them to be included or sites that do not have complete spatial data. In this way, the Registry now acts as a supplementary database to the WDPA by using the same core data fields, but providing valuable additional and in-depth information that can help build our collective knowledge of community-driven spatial conservation efforts. A comparison of current ICCA data held in the Registry and the WDPA (IUCN & UNEP-WCMC, 2016)⁶ is given in table 5.

As part of the effort to increase accounting of diverse governance types of protected areas, both databases are now subject to a peer-review and verification process for non-government data and both can accept data with restrictions on certain uses. The peer-review/verification process means that the WDPA can accept data from a wider pool of data providers, without compromising quality. The process also provides an opportunity for the reviewer to raise any concerns regarding whether an appropriate FPIC process has taken place. Depending on the wishes of the data provider, the process can either be carried out by the national government (verification), or by national networks of ICCAs or similar mechanisms (peer-review process). A new field in the WDPA allows users to identify which process has been used. The peer-review process is country-specific, and the ICCA Consortium is assisting several national ICCA networks (for example, in Spain and Iran) to develop the procedures that appear most appropriate to their national contexts (see UNEP-WCMC, 2016 for further information).

As the WDPA and Registry become more aligned, ICCA case studies will be linked to the relevant record on www.protectedplanet.net. Linking the databases in this way means that the WDPA can optimally represent ICCAs as part of the global protected area network, while the Registry emphasizes their multiple values, including biodiversity, traditional knowledge and cultural elements.

CONCLUSION

Both the Global ICCA Registry and the World Database on Protected Areas serve as important sources of information, and encourage processes for building knowledge on protected and conserved territories and areas governed by indigenous peoples and local communities. Though the number of ICCAs in the Registry is currently limited in scope, progress is being made and we welcome participation to help expand global documentation of ICCAs. The benefit of understanding how community-driven spatial conservation efforts contribute to protecting biodiversity and ecosystem functioning is as important as ever. By undertaking collaborative efforts to appropriately document and manage high-quality information and knowledge about ICCAs, the Registry attempts to increase awareness of these important conservation mechanisms. It is hoped that the continued development of these databases will support the cultures, livelihoods, knowledge systems and ways of being of the communities that live and interact with habitats, species and environments of local and global conservation significance.

ENDNOTES

¹ The Global ICCA Registry can be explored at www.iccaregistry.org. Anyone interested in participating in the Registry can contact iccaregistry@unep-wcmc.org for further guidance.

² The World Database on Protected Areas is available online, www.protectedplanet.net, where the data is both viewable and downloadable.

³ Further details about the ICCA Consortium and its activities can be found at www.iccaconsortium.org

⁴ See www.iccaregistry.org/explore

⁵ By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape.

⁶ The ICCAs currently in the WDPA were identified using the WDPA's governance type field: "Indigenous peoples" or "Local communities". Most were included in the WDPA prior to, or during early stages, of the Registry's development.



A Mamanwa woman takes a break from harvesting grass blades for mat-weaving © Glaiza Tabanao

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RESUMEN

Pese a que las políticas ambientales a escala mundial exigen que las áreas protegidas sean representativas y efectivas y que estén bien conectadas, gran cantidad de áreas gobernadas y manejadas por los pueblos indígenas y las comunidades locales no han sido adecuadamente documentadas por los mecanismos formales y, por lo tanto, no son tomadas en cuenta. Si bien los procesos internacionales asociados con el inventario de áreas protegidas han estado en ejecución por décadas, no es sino hasta hace poco que se han empezado a incluir los distintos tipos de gobernanza en las bases de datos mundiales. Describimos la historia y el contexto del desarrollo del Registro mundial de los territorios y áreas conservados por pueblos indígenas y comunidades locales (ICCA, por sus siglas en inglés). Este Registro fue desarrollado a través de un extenso proceso de consulta y una alianza internacional. El Registro se adhiere a los principios del consentimiento libre, previo e informado y utiliza los mismos estándares de datos e infraestructura técnica de la Base Mundial de Datos sobre Áreas Protegidas (WDPA, por sus siglas en inglés). Describimos los beneficios locales que el registro mundial conlleva para los que han participado, entre los que cabe destacar la reducción de conflictos relacionados con prospectos mineros y el aumento de los ingresos del turismo de base comunitaria. También destacamos algunas conclusiones de importancia mundial que se desprenden del Registro: más del 70 por ciento de las ICCA registradas tienen la conservación de la biodiversidad como objetivo fundamental, y la totalidad de ICCA registradas incluyen todas las categorías de manejo de la UICN. Examinamos la creciente armonización del Registro de ICCA con la WDPA, y describimos la importancia de ambas bases de datos para la documentación y el análisis de ICCA. Por último, sostenemos que la documentación cuidadosa de estas áreas puede aumentar su valor para la protección efectiva de la biodiversidad, y para el logro de los objetivos mundiales en materia de conservación y desarrollo.

RÉSUMÉ

Malgré les nombreuses politiques environnementales mondiales qui encouragent l'expansion d'aires protégées gérées de façon efficace et représentative, une grande partie des régions gérées par les communautés locales et les peuples autochtones reste largement sous-documentée et n'est donc officiellement pas répertoriée. Des protocoles d'inventaire spécifiques existent depuis des décennies, mais ce n'est que récemment que les nouveaux types de gouvernance ont commencé à être inclus dans les bases de données officielles internationales. Nous fournissons un aperçu de la genèse et du contexte de l'élaboration du registre mondial des Aires et territoires du Patrimoine Autochtone et Communautaire (APAC). Ce registre a été élaboré grâce à un processus international consultatif et collaboratif. Le registre est conforme aux principes de consentement libre, préalable et informé, et utilise la même norme de données et la même infrastructure technique que la base de données mondiale des aires protégées (WDPA). Nous décrivons les avantages d'un enregistrement centralisé pour les communautés locales participantes, tels que la réduction des conflits autour de la prospection minière et l'augmentation des recettes provenant des initiatives touristiques. Nous soulignons également les avantages du Registre au niveau des normes internationales : plus de 70 pour-cent des APAC enregistrés ont inscrit la conservation de la biodiversité comme l'un de leurs objectifs essentiels, et les APAC enregistrés sont en ligne avec toutes les catégories de gestion de l'UICN. Nous examinons la convergence croissante entre le registre des APAC et le WDPA, et soulignons l'importance de ces deux bases de données pour la documentation et l'analyse des APAC. Enfin, nous soutenons qu'une documentation rigoureuse peut accroître l'efficacité de ces régions dans leurs initiatives de protection de la biodiversité, et contribuer à la l'atteinte des objectifs de développement et de conservation à l'échelle mondiale.